

Flathead Lake Islands

DRAFT Management Plan

SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS



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May 2009**



***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

Supplemental Documents List

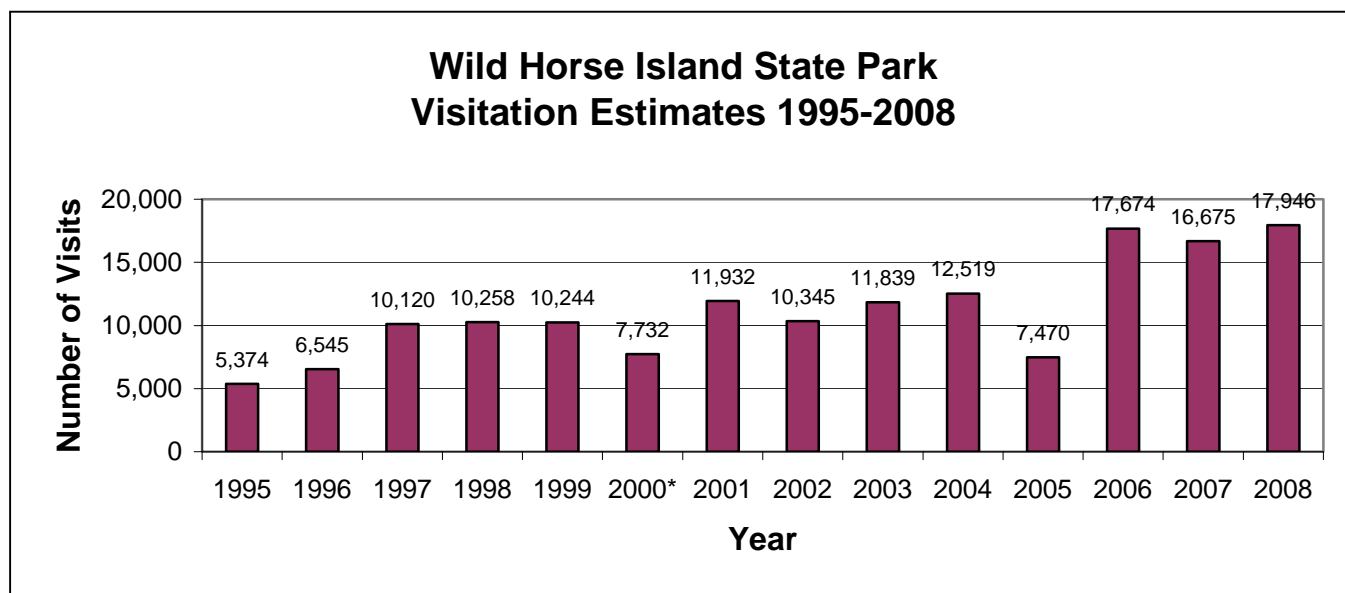
These documents provide background for the 2009 Flathead Lake Islands Management Plan.

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To attain additional copies please contact the FWP Region 1 office at 406-752-5501 or see the web site at *fwp.mt.gov*.

Flathead Lake Islands Management Plan 2009 - Supplement A

Wild Horse Island Visitation Statistics



*Park closed due to high fire danger (August & September)

How Visitation is Estimated

A landing site registration system serves as the primary visitation data collection tool for Wild Horse Island. It is recognized that not all visitors register when they access the park at the primary landing sites, and some visitors land at sites without registration logs. Previous surveys by interns, volunteers and FWP staff have estimated the percentage of registered visits compared to total visits. Registration data is adjusted by the survey factors to more accurately estimate total state park visitation.

Visitation data is not available for the Wildlife Habitat Protection Areas.

Flathead Lake Islands Management Plan 2009 - Supplement B
Visitor Preference Surveys

Summary of Research

2002 Survey of Wild Horse Island State Park Visitors

Michael S. Lewis, Jerry Sawyer, and Kirsten Shelton

April 2003

RMU Research Summary No. 10



Wild Horse Island State Park is truly a unique resource. Located on scenic Flathead Lake in northwestern Montana, this park is accessible by watercraft only and offers a wide array of primitive day-use only recreational opportunities. Over time, this 2,163 acre island has come to hold special meaning for those who visit its rocky shores to hike, picnic, observe wildlife, swim, fish, or simply enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of the island. The park itself also preserves an endangered palouse prairie environment, incredible wildlife (including bighorn sheep), as well as some historic resources. And, of note, private property is found along much of the island perimeter.

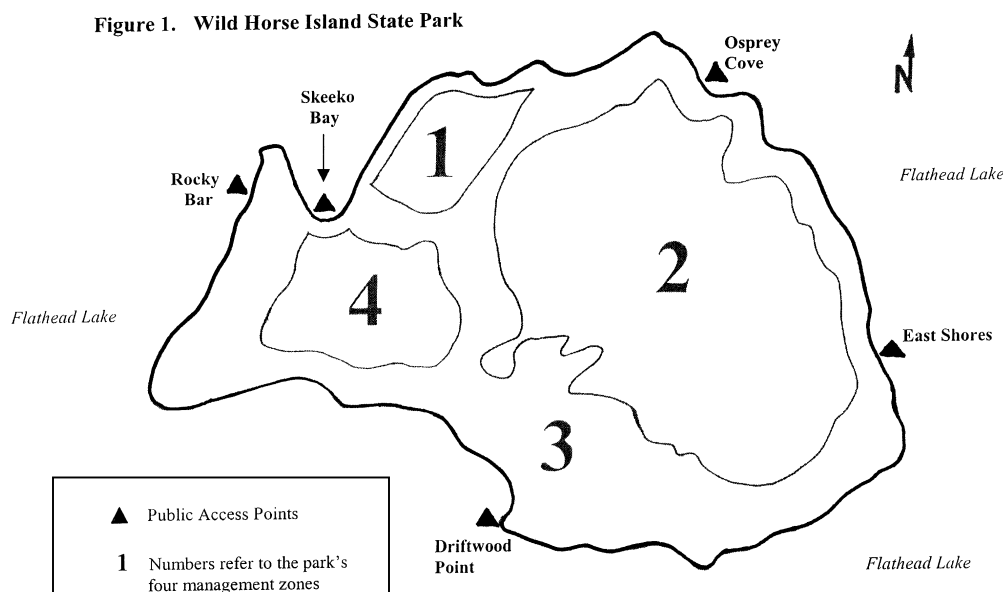
During the 2002 summer use season, Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (FWP) conducted a study to estimate recreational use of the island as well as to survey park visitors. The purpose of the study was to provide park managers with information which will be used to help update the Wild Horse Island State Park Management Plan. This research summary highlights the key findings from the 2002 study.

MOST PARK VISITORS CONTACTED RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY

To estimate recreational use of the island, FWP used what is commonly referred to as an “instantaneous count” method. On randomly selected days during the study period (July 4 through September 30), researchers boated around the island at five different randomly selected times during the day (daylight hours only between 8 AM and 8 PM) and quickly counted all watercraft beached/moored on the island at publicly owned locations. Counts of watercraft were tallied and recorded according the sample date, sample time, and location on the island--Skeeko Bay, Osprey Cove, East Shores, Driftwood Point, Rocky Bar, or other non-designated publicly owned location found on the island perimeter (see figure 1 below).

Following completion of each count, researchers systematically interviewed park visitors who were leaving or getting ready to leave the island (e.g., exit interviews). One of the goals of the exit interview was

Figure 1. Wild Horse Island State Park



to identify the average number of people per boat—an important component of the instantaneous count method. Another goal of the exit interview was to identify a sample of park visitors who would be willing to provide more detailed information about their park experience via an in-depth questionnaire which was sent to them by mail shortly after their visit. Throughout the study period, a total of 124 park visitors were mailed this in-depth questionnaire. A 77 percent response rate to the questionnaire was achieved, which is considered to be an extremely high response rate for a mailback survey of this type.

ESTIMATES OF RECREATIONAL USE

The following recreational use estimates were derived from the study which was conducted from July 4 through September. The numbers below are in visitor days (one visitor day is the equivalent of one person using the park for any part of one day):

Overall recreational use of the island.....	9,390
Skeeko Bay	3,709
Osprey Cove.....	437
East Shore	248
Driftwood Point.....	218
Rocky Bar	688
Other non-designated public areas.....	4,090

The remaining information presented in this research summary focus on results from the in-depth mailback questionnaire sent to the sample of park visitors contacted onsite in the park.

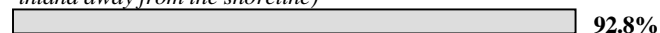
VISITORS REPORTED MOST PARK CONDITIONS WERE ACCEPTABLE

Survey participants were asked to rate the acceptability of several park conditions (e.g., the number of other park users, the behavior of other park users, the general lack of facilities on the island, the amount of litter and amount of visitor impacts to park resources, etc.).

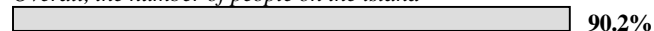


Overall, 70 percent or more the respondents rated all but two of the park conditions addressed in the questionnaire as being acceptable or very acceptable. Below are 10 highlights of park conditions rated most acceptable by respondents. Please note, the numbers below indicate the percent of respondents who reported a particular park condition to be acceptable or very acceptable:

The number of people recreating in the island interior (e.g., hiking, walking, recreating at least 100 yards inland away from the shoreline)



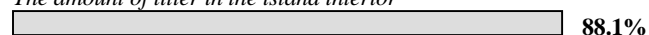
Overall, the number of people on the island



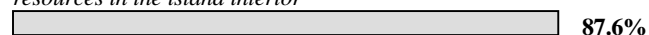
The number of people (and their boats) recreating along the shoreline



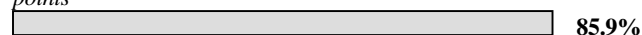
The amount of litter in the island interior



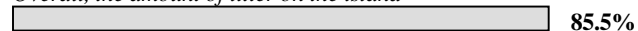
The amount of human-caused impacts to natural resources in the island interior



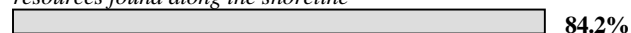
The number of people (and their boats) at public access points



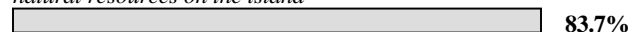
Overall, the amount of litter on the island



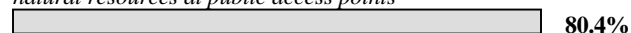
The amount of human-caused impacts to natural resources found along the shoreline



Overall, the amount of human-caused impacts to natural resources on the island



The amount of human-caused impacts to natural resources at public access points



The only park conditions rated unacceptable or very unacceptable by 15 percent or more of the respondents were:

- *The relatively limited number of toilet facilities on the island (33 percent).*
- *The amount of human body waste (human feces) and toilet paper at public access points (19 percent).*
- *The amount of human body waste (human feces) and toilet paper along the shoreline (19 percent)*
- *The amount of human body waste (human feces) and toilet paper in the island interior (19 percent).*
- *The lack of boat docks at public access points (19 percent).*

Survey participants also were asked more detailed questions concerning the topic of potential congestion and crowding on the island. More specifically, survey participants were asked questions about:

1. The number other park visitors they saw during the time they recreated in the park interior (defined as 100 yards or more inland away from the shoreline).

On average, excluding the people in their own group, respondents reported seeing about 4 other people per hour. About half of those people seen per hour were seen within about 50 yards of less of the respondents (e.g., relatively up close and personal encounters).

2. How they felt about seeing other park visitors using a scale from 1 (disliked very much) to 5 (liked very much).

Only five percent of the respondents reported they disliked somewhat or disliked very much the number of other people they saw while recreating in the park interior.

3. Their pre-trip expectations about seeing other people while visiting the island.

Only twelve percent of the respondents expected to see fewer other park visitors than what they actually saw during the time they recreated in the park interior.

4. What they think would have been the maximum number of other people that would have been acceptable to have seen without feeling too crowded during the time they recreated in the park interior.

On average, respondents reported that about 10 people per hour would have been the maximum total number of other people that would have been acceptable to see without feeling too crowded during the time they were recreating in the park interior. On average, respondents reported that about 5-6 people per hour would have been the maximum total number of other people that would have been acceptable to see within about 50 yards or less without feeling too crowded during the time they were recreating in the park interior.

In sum, these results suggest Wild Horse Island is NOT experiencing any significant issues of congestion and crowding at the present time.



MOST RESPONDENTS ARE SUPPORTIVE OF CURRENT PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

Group size. Nearly 76 percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the current group size restriction of no more than 15 people per group is acceptable. Only nine percent agreed or strongly agreed that the group size restriction needs to be *increased*. Twenty six percent agreed or strongly agreed that the group size restriction needs to be *decreased*.

Pets. Eighty-six percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the current regulation that prohibits pets on the island is acceptable. Twenty-two percent agreed or strongly agreed pets should be allowed on the island as long as their owners are required to keep them on leash at all times.

Overnight camping. Sixty-seven percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the current regulation, which prohibits overnight camping on the island, is acceptable. Nearly 35 percent agreed or strongly agreed that overnight camping should be allowed on the island at designated camping locations.

Mountain bikes. Eighty-eight percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the current regulation prohibiting the use of mountain bikes on the island is acceptable. Only nine percent agreed or strongly agreed that visitors should be allowed to use mountain bikes while visiting the island.

Fire. Eighty-eight percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the current regulation prohibiting island visitors from using any type of fire on the island is acceptable. That said, 42 percent agreed or strongly agreed island visitors should be allowed to use propane gas stoves along the island shoreline.

GENERAL LACK OF SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES OFFERING ISLAND SHUTTLE SERVICES AND/OR GUIDED ISLAND TOURS FOR A FEE

Twenty-three percent of the respondents supported or strongly supported businesses offering shuttle services to the island for a fee. Fifty-five percent opposed or strongly opposed this notion. Twenty-two percent neither supported nor opposed.

Fourteen percent of the respondents supported or strongly supported businesses offering guide tours of the island for a fee. Around 64 percent opposed or strongly opposed this notion. Once again, 22 percent neither supported nor opposed.

DISCUSSION

Results of this study will provide park managers with statistically accurate information that can be used to help improve and maintain the quality of the visitor experience in the park as well as assist with ongoing park management and planning activities.

Overall, it is apparent that a majority of visitors to the park in 2002 were quite satisfied with almost all aspects of their “park experiences” this past use season. This is encouraging news! These results point to the success of past planning strategies which have focused on zoning and Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) concepts for managing the park. Although more work needs to be done to solidify indicators and standards of quality related to defining acceptable social and resource conditions on the island, the results presented herein suggest that past management actions to date have been successful in the eyes of current park visitors.

To ensure that quality visitor experiences continue to be provided over time, FWP is committed to updating the Wild Horse Island State Park Management Plan prior to the 2003 season. This study focused on gaining input from a very important stakeholder group in that planning process--park visitors. In addition to park visitors, input from a wide array of additional stakeholder groups is being considered as part of the park planning process.

It is hoped this study will provide a model for conducting further studies of park use at Wild Horse Island in the future. FWP intends to periodically replicate this study (e.g., every 3-5 years) in an effort to monitor trends in visitor use and ensure that quality visitor experiences are being provided over time.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARK VISITORS SURVEYED AND THEIR TRIPS TO THE PARK

- Nearly 92 percent of the respondents were with family and/or friends during their park visit. Two percent were alone. Six percent were with an organized group or club.
- Eighty-five percent of the respondents used their own or someone else's watercraft (e.g., boat, canoe, kayak, etc.) to get to the park. Nearly 12 percent rented a watercraft. Three percent reported they paid for a shuttle service.
- Eighty-six percent of the respondents spent time recreating in the park interior (defined as at least 100 yards inland away from the shoreline).
- Fifty-three percent of the respondents reported they spent most of their time recreating in Management Zone 4 within the park (see Figure 1, front page of this summary). Twenty-four percent spent most of their time in Management Zone 2; 15 percent in Management Zone 3; and, eight percent in Management Zone 1.
- Twenty-two percent of the respondents were first time visitors to the park.
- The average and median age of respondents was 50 years.
- Forty-four percent of the respondents were female; 56 percent were male.
- Nearly 31 percent of the respondents were nonresidents. Sixty-nine percent reported they currently reside in Montana. Montana residents reported living in the state an average and median of about 30 years.
- Nearly 34 percent of the respondents reported they have a residential dwelling (e.g., house, cabin, mobile home) or own/rent property that is located on Flathead Lake.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The study presented herein and preparation of this research summary was supported by the Parks Division of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) with assistance from the Responsive Management Unit of FWP.

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Contact the Responsive Management Unit of FWP at (406) 444-4758.



Summary of Research



2002 Survey of Wild Horse Island Property Owners

Michael S. Lewis, Jerry Sawyer, and Kirsten Shelton

April 2003

RMU Research Summary No. 11

To some, Wild Horse Island is more than just a Montana State Park. For some it's home, at least part of the time. While most of this 2,163 acre island is a publicly owned, private property is found along much of the island perimeter.

During the fall of 2002, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) conducted a survey of property owners on Wild Horse Island. The purpose of this survey was to provide park managers with information which will be used to help update the Wild Horse Island State Park Management Plan. Via this survey, property owners offered their overall perceptions of the various park conditions they witness on the island. They also offered opinions concerning the extent to which they support or oppose current park rules and regulations. Lastly, property owners provided information about the nature of their own recreation use of the park.

This research summary highlights the key findings from the 2002 survey.

MOST ALL OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS CONTACTED RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY

The Wild Horse Island Home Owners Association provided FWP with a list of 45 known property owners who were mailed an in-depth survey questionnaire in early fall 2002. Five of the addresses provided for these property owners turned out to be undeliverable. Hence, 40 property owners actually received the questionnaire. An 83 percent response rate to the survey was achieved, which is considered to be an exceptionally high response rate for a mailback survey of this type.



PROPERTY OWNERS' PERCEPTIONS OF PARK CONDITIONS WERE VARIED

Survey participants were asked to rate the acceptability of several park conditions (e.g., the number of other park users, the behavior of other park users, the general lack of facilities on the island, the amount of litter and amount of visitor impacts to park resources, etc.).

Below is a list of the 10 park conditions rated most acceptable by respondents. Please note, the numbers below indicate the percent of respondents who reported a particular park condition to be acceptable or very acceptable.

<i>The relatively limited number of designated hiking trails on the island</i>	87.5%
<i>The number of people recreating in the island interior (e.g., hiking, walking, recreating at least 100 yards inland away from the shoreline) on weekdays</i>	85.2%
<i>The relatively limited number of signs (informational and directional) on the island</i>	83.4%
<i>The number of people visiting the island on weekdays</i>	78.6%
<i>The quality of signs (informational and directional) on the island</i>	77.4%
<i>The number of people (and their boats) at public access points on weekdays</i>	72.4%
<i>The lack of boat docks at public access points</i>	71.9%
<i>The number of people recreating in the island interior on weekends</i>	67.9%
<i>The number of people (and their boats) recreating along the shoreline on weekdays</i>	57.2%
<i>The amount of litter in the island interior</i>	52.0%

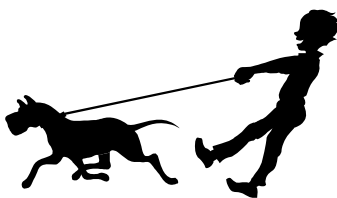
Those park conditions rated unacceptable or very unacceptable by 40 percent or more of the respondents were:

- *The amount of human body waste (human feces) and toilet paper at public access point (68 percent).*
- *The amount of trespassing occurring on private property located on the island on weekends (66 percent).*
- *The amount of litter at public access points (58 percent).*
- *The amount of human body waste (human feces) and toilet paper along the shoreline (55 percent).*
- *The relatively limited number of toilet facilities on the island (48 percent).*
- *The amount of trespassing occurring on private property located on the island on weekdays (46 percent).*
- *The amount of human body waste (human feces) and toilet paper in the island interior (44 percent).*
- *The amount of litter along the shoreline (41 percent).*
- *The amount of human-caused impacts to natural resources at public access points (40 percent).*
- *The number of people (and their boats) recreating along the shoreline on weekends (40 percent).*

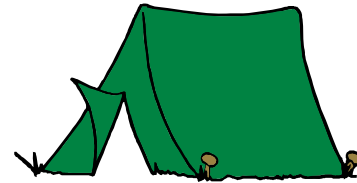
PROPERTY OWNERS ARE SUPPORTIVE OF MOST CURRENT PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

Group size. Forty-eight percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the current group size restriction of no more than 15 people per group is acceptable. Only three percent agreed or strongly agreed that the group size restriction needs to be *increased*. Fifty-three percent agreed or strongly agreed that the group size restriction needs to be *decreased*.

Pets. Eighty-eight percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the current regulation that prohibits pets on the island is acceptable. Twenty-seven percent agreed or strongly agreed pets should be allowed on the island as long as their owners are required to keep them on leash at all times.



Overnight camping. Ninety-seven percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the current regulation which prohibits overnight camping on the island is acceptable. None of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that overnight camping should be allowed on the island at designated camping locations.



Mountain bikes. Ninety-seven percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the current regulation prohibiting the use of mountain bikes on the island is acceptable. Only three percent agreed or strongly agreed that visitors should be allowed to use mountain bikes while visiting the island.



Fire. Ninety-four percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the current regulation prohibiting island visitors from using any type of fire on the island is acceptable. Only six percent agreed or strongly agreed island visitors should be allowed to use propane gas stoves along the island shoreline.





PROPERTY OWNERS DO NOT SUPPORT BUSINESSES OFFERING ISLAND SHUTTLE SERVICES AND/OR GUIDED ISLAND TOURS FOR A FEE

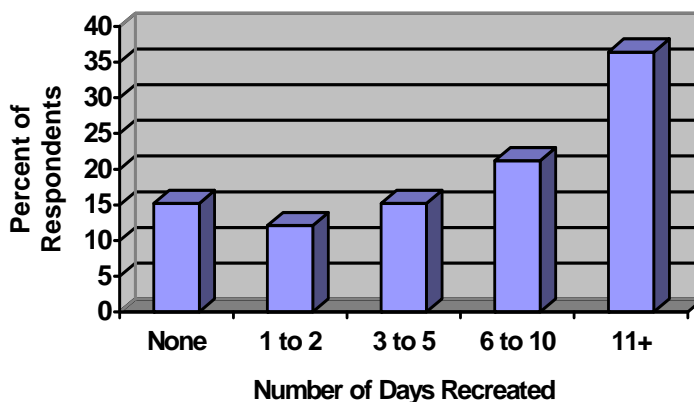
Only three percent of the respondents supported or strongly supported businesses offering shuttle services to the island for a fee. Eighty-eight percent opposed or strongly opposed this notion. Nine percent neither supported nor opposed.

None of the respondents supported or strongly supported businesses offering guide tours of the island for a fee. Around 85 percent opposed or strongly opposed this notion. Fifteen percent neither supported nor opposed.

RECREATIONAL USE OF THE PARK BY PROPERTY OWNERS

Survey participants were asked how many total days they recreated on the public, non-privately owned portions of Wild Horse Island during the summer use season (July – September, 2002). Around 36 percent of the respondents reported they recreated more than 10 days (Figure 1). Twenty-one percent reported recreating between six and ten days. Fifteen percent reported they did NOT recreate any at all during the 2002 summer use season.

Figure 1. Response to: “This past summer use season (July – September, 2002), about how many total days did you recreate on the public, non-privately owned portions of Wild Horse Island State Park?”



Survey participants also were asked to what extend did members of their own family and/or guests of their family recreate on the public, non-privately owned portions of Wild Horse Island State Park during the 2002 summer use season.

- Sixty-eight percent of the respondents reported that members of their own family recreated 6 or more days (Figure 2).
- Half of the respondents reported that guests of their family recreated 6 or more days (Figure 3).

Figure 2. Response to: “This past summer use season (July – September, 2002), about how many total days did members of your family recreate on the public, non-privately owned portions of Wild Horse Island State Park?”

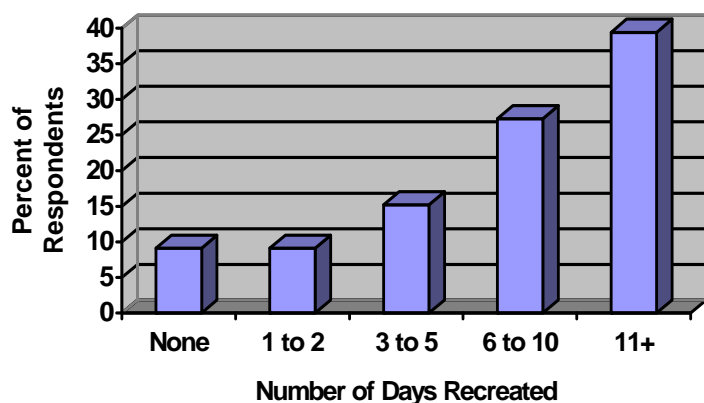
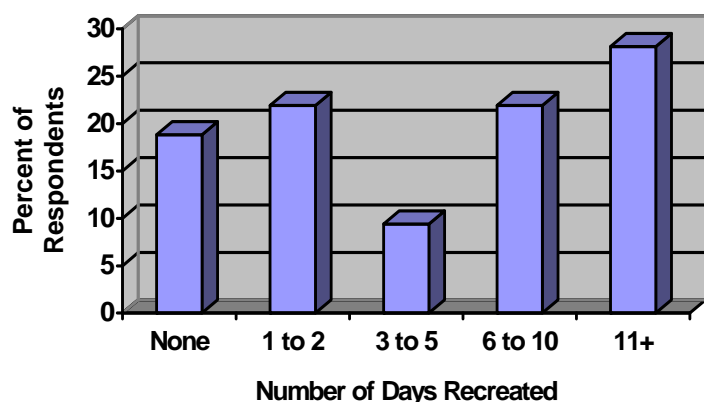


Figure 3. Response to: “This past summer use season (July – September, 2002), about how many total days did your guests or guests of your family to the island recreate on the public, non-privately owned portions of Wild Horse Island State Park?”



CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS SURVEYED

- On average, property owners reported owning their Wild Horse Island property for 26 years.
- The average and median age of respondents was 60 years.
- Thirty-six percent of the respondents were female; 64 percent were male.
- Fifty-five percent of the respondents were nonresidents. Forty-five percent reported they currently reside in Montana. Montana residents reported living in the state an average of about 48 years.

DISCUSSION

To ensure that quality visitor experiences continue to be provided over time, FWP is committed to updating the Wild Horse Island State Park Management Plan prior to the 2003 season. This study focused on gaining input from a very important stakeholder group in that planning process—Wild Horse Island property owners. In addition to property owners, input from a wide array of additional stakeholder groups (including park visitors) is being considered as part of the park planning process.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Jerry Sawyer, Park Manager, Flathead Lake State Park, Parks Division of FWP, Kalispell, Montana.

Kirsten Shelton, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Parks Division of FWP, Helena, Montana.

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Flathead Lake Islands Management Plan 2009 - Supplement C

Wild Horse Island Zoning and Limits of Acceptable Change Process

Zone Management and Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC)

Because of the diversity of resources, uses and conditions, few areas can be managed uniformly. How well an area endures use will vary from site to site. In addition, most visitors differ in their definitions of what constitutes a quality experience. Management approaches that work in one area may not be very effective in others. Zoning is a method that recognizes these differences. It attempts to segment a given area according to its' resource attributes and utilize different strategies to protect the resource while maximizing recreational opportunities as a whole. It requires different standards, use levels and activities to be applied to the various segments so that the natural character of the entire area is not lost.

The zone management and LAC process developed for Wild Horse Island (Figure 1.) will be based on the concept that originally had been initiated for Wild Horse Island in 1987, but was not fully implemented. Zone management is an approach that will be applied to all state parks in Region 1 for purposes of management consistency. Those zones or classes described for Wild Horse Island may also be applied at other areas as well (Table 1).

LAC Overview (condensed from Stankey et al., 1985)

The basic premise of the LAC concept is that change is a natural inevitable consequence of recreation use. Both environmental and social changes are involved. The nature and extent of these changes will vary throughout an area because of differences in types and amount of use, susceptibility of vegetation and soils to use pressure and other factors. LAC directs its attention from use level as a key management concern to the environmental and social conditions desired in a particular setting. It focuses directly on managing for desired conditions, rather than on how recreation itself should be managed. Traditionally, the task of primitive area management was to define the level beyond which excessive impact would occur. The LAC framework with its emphasis on desired conditions, attempts to define what is acceptable change for a particular impact.

Impacts as a result of recreational use are inevitable because even light use causes some ecological change. These impacts affect nearly all aspects of the ecosystem, especially soils and vegetation, and are a

contributing factor .in determining the quality of a primitive experience and whether displacement occurs. Zone management incorporates the LAC process by dividing an area into sub-units or compartments (Figure 2.), setting management objectives for these units, and defining and describing the recreation opportunity afforded in these units through a classification system. Within each compartment, there are indicators and standards that can be used to maintain the objectives of the particular unit and the preferred setting. Finally, in order to maintain the standards for the unit, some type of monitoring system must be incorporated into the management of the unit. When the standards are approached, met or exceeded management actions to maintain acceptable levels of change will occur.

Figure 1. Limits of Acceptable Change Planning Model

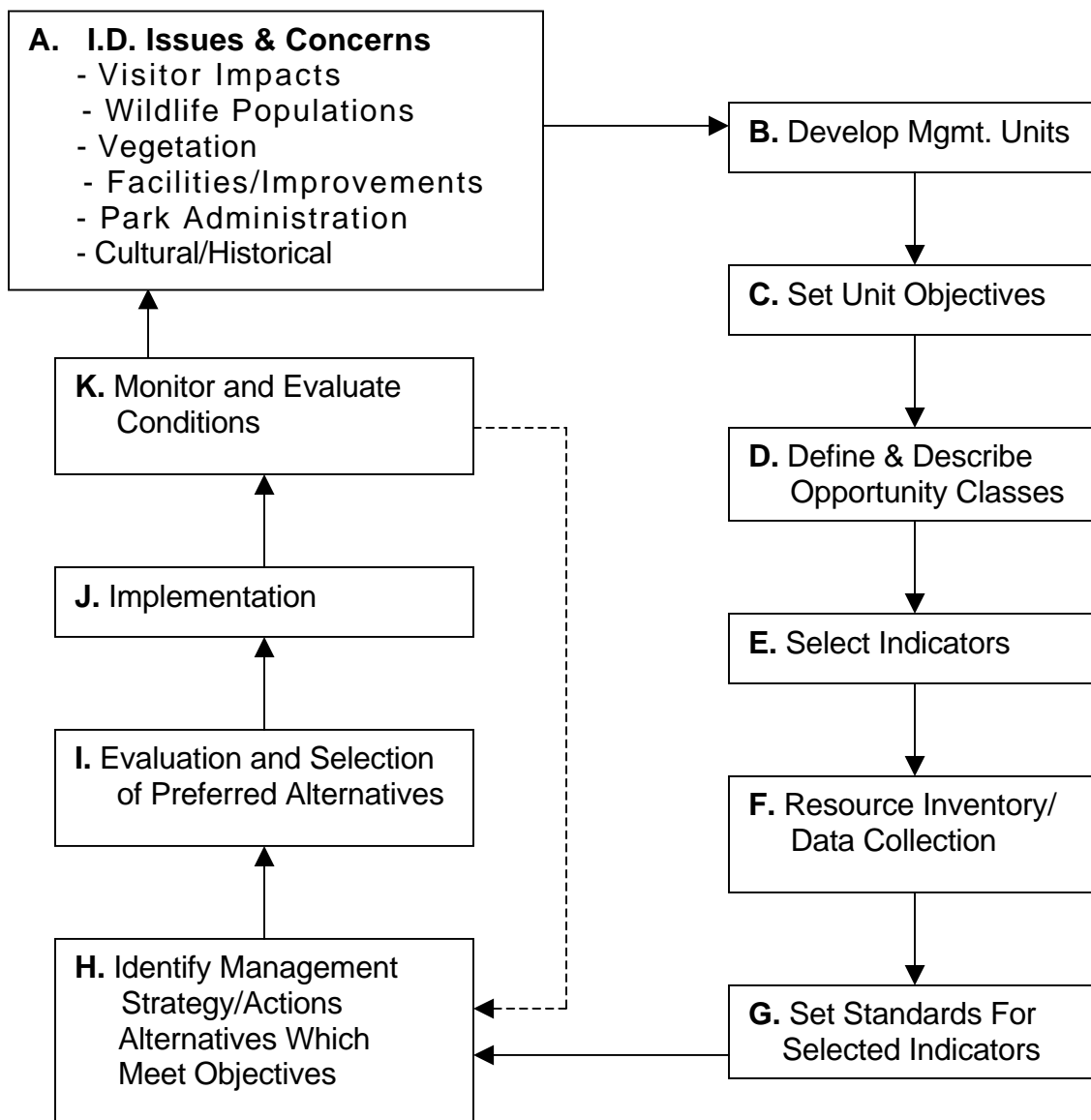


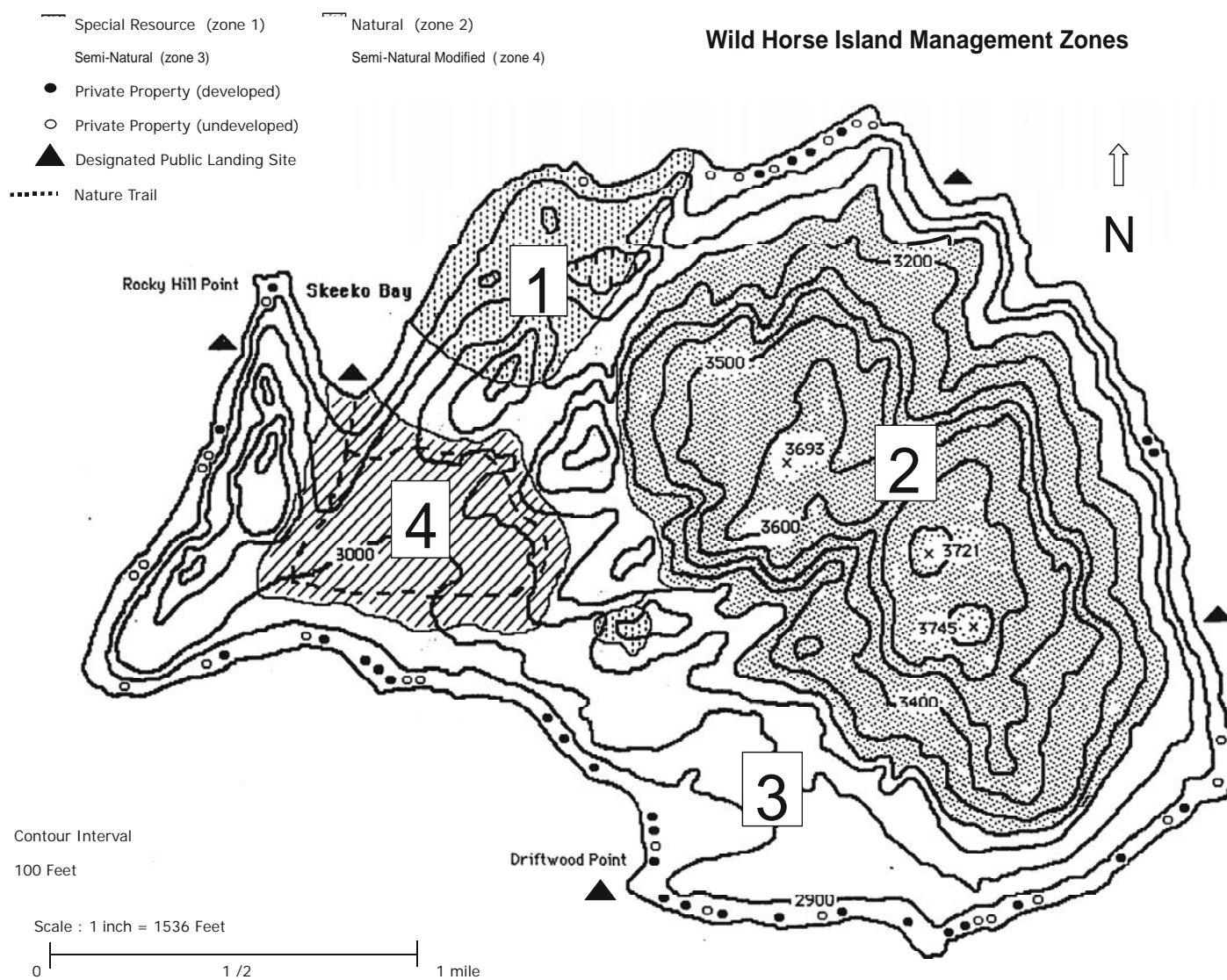
Figure 2. WHI Management Zones

Table 1. General Characteristics of Opportunity Classes

Recreational → Opportunity Class Characteristic ↓	<u>Class 1</u> Special Resource (roadless)	<u>Class 2</u> Natural (roadless)	<u>Class 3</u> Semi- natural (roadless)	<u>Class 4</u> Semi-natural Modified (roadless)	<u>Class 5</u> Semi-natural Motorized	<u>Class 6</u> Modified Natural Motorized	<u>Class 7</u> Modified Rural Motorized
Resource Conditions	Primitive/ unmodified	Primitive/ unmodified	Minor temporary changes to environment	Limited, but visible permanent changes to environment	Confined permanent changes	Modified	Highly modified, significant alterations
Human Impacts	Not noticable	Limited, but visible, annual recovery of site	Confined, visible year to year, partial site recovery	Confined, visible year to year, no recovery of site, some minor site hardening	Confined, highly visible, moderate site hardening	Many locations highly visible, high level of site hardening	Widespread, extensive site hardening
Interaction with Other Users	Very low	Very low	Low	Low to moderate mostly along trails or at access points	Moderate, along trails, roads & near facilities	Moderate to high	High, others visible throughout area
Opportunities for Isolation and Solitude	Generally excellent	Excellent	Very good	Good to Fair	Fair	Poor, others visible throughout area	Virtually non-existent
Challenge	High	High	High to Moderate	Moderate	Moderate to Low	Low	Low
Response to Emergencies	Low	Low	Low	Low to Moderate	Moderate	Moderate to High	High
Interpretive Opportunities	Self- discovery	Self- discovery	Brochures/ maps limited signing	Brochures, maps, signing, display panels, guided hikes	Brochures, maps, display panels, kiosks, guided hikes	Brochures, maps, display panels, kiosks, guided hikes, programs, visitor centers	Brochures, maps, display panels, kiosks, guided car tours, programs, visitor centers
Evidence of Management Presence	None, except for marked boundaries	Limited to subtle indirect methods	Minor, at access points, trail junctions or critical areas	Minor, along trails, access points, or critical areas	Noticeable at access points, along roads or at camp areas	Readily apparent at access points, along roads or camp areas	Apparent throughout area
Area Closure Classifications	Permanent or temporary to protect resource	Temporary, for resource protection	Temporary, for resource protection	Temporary, for resource protection	Temporary, for resources or visitor safety	Temporary, for resources or visitor safety	Temporary, for visitor safety

Recreational → Opportunity Class Characteristic ↓	<u>Class 1</u> Special Resource (roadless)	<u>Class 2</u> Natural (roadless)	<u>Class 3</u> Semi-natural (roadless)	<u>Class 4</u> Semi- natural modified (roadless)	<u>Class 5</u> Semi-natural Motorized	<u>Class 6</u> Modified Semi-Natural Motorized	<u>Class 7</u> Modified Rural Motorized
Typical Recreation Activities	Hiking (limited by closure restrictions)	Hiking, picnicking, wildlife viewing & photography, outdoor skills development	Hiking, picnicking, camping (primitive) wildlife viewing & photography, outdoor skills development	Hiking, picnicking, camping, wildlife viewing & photography, interpretive guided hikes,	Camping, hiking picnicking, fishing, boating, swimming	Camping, hiking picnicking, fishing, boating swimming	Camping, hiking picnicking, fishing, boating swimming
Disabled Accessibility	No special accommoda- tion	No special accommoda- tion	No special accommoda- tion	Limited accommoda- tions may be made, consideration based on impact to experience and naturalness of the setting	Accommoda- tion made for accessibility to some facilities	Accommoda- tions for accessibility to trails & other facilities	Accommoda- tions for accessibility to trails & other facilities
Site Modification	None	None	Limited to access points	Limited, access points, along trails, pts. Of interest	Limited, access points, along roads, pts. Of interest	Frequent, access pts., along roads, at facilities	Frequent, access pts., along roads, at facilities
Motorized Use	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Facilities	None	None	Health, safety, resource protection	Health, safety, resource protection	Health, safety, resource protection, visitor convenience	Health, safety, resource protection, visitor convenience	Health, safety, resource protection, visitor convenience
Trails	Game type trails, with up to level 1 maintenance standards (natural surface)	Utilize game type trails, up to level 1 maintenance standards (natural surface)	Game trail w/ minor constructed connecting sections, level 2 maint. standards (natural surface)	Utilize game trails, some longer constructed sections, up to level 2 maint. Standards (natural surface)	Design construction up to level 3 (wood chip or light gravel surface)	Design construction up to level 3+ (high standard gravel surface)	Design construction up to level 3+ (high standard gravel or paved surface)
Signing	Only to mark boundary	None	Limited to access points	Limited, access points, along trails & at junctions	Limited, access points, along roads, junctions, near facilities	Frequent	Frequent
Ranger Patrols	May be frequent around perimeter	Infrequent	Limited patrols during peak visitation periods	Regular patrols during peak visitation periods, limited off-season	Regular patrols during peak visitation periods, limited off-season	Regular patrols during peak visitation periods, limited off-season	Regular patrols during peak visitation and off-season periods
Roadways	None	None	None	None	Natural surfacing or light gravel	Low standard gravel or paving	High standard gravel or paving

A. Purpose

To develop guidelines for management of primitive dispersed recreational use in order to maximize compatible recreational opportunities for the visitor, while maintaining a standard of quality for the resource.

B. Definitions

- a. Dispersed Recreation - Division approved activities, which occur in areas other than those with developed facilities such as campgrounds or picnic areas. The location of these areas is accessible by foot travel or boat.
- b. Recreational Opportunity - those opportunities available to the visitor, which allows them to seek satisfying experiences through activities in preferred settings.
- c. Preferred Settings - the combination of physical, biological, social and managerial conditions that give value to a place.
- d. Zoning - refers to sectioning areas where different management approaches/actions are utilized for those area sections.
- e. Displacement - the changing of participation in recreation opportunities due to dissatisfaction by not being able to attain what is desired. Displacement from one recreation opportunity to another can be caused by a variety of reasons (e.g. available activities/settings change).

C. Procedure

The following steps are guidelines to be used for LAC zoning of Wild Horse Island.

- a. Zones (compartments) should be established according to the following criteria:
 - 1. Use patterns within a zone should be similar.
 - 2. The topography of the zone should be uniform.
 - 3. Trailheads and the travel routes to all areas of the zone should be comparable.
 - 4. Areas of similar vegetation types will be included where possible.
 - 5. Presence of threatened and endangered species.
- b. The amount and type of use an area can support is dependent on the type of use for which it is managed. In determining what is an acceptable change it is necessary to develop specific objectives for each area. Wild Horse Island has been divided into four zones .

Objectives for Special Resource Zone - To protect threatened and endangered species and other identified special resources from disturbance by visitors.

Objective for Natural Zone - Provide opportunities to fulfill desires for solitude and isolation, self-reliance and achievement, to engage in activities requiring high amounts of physical effort and risk taking, where inter-party contact is low, and security (availability of help in an emergency) minimal.

Objective for Semi-Natural Zone - Provide opportunities to learn or develop outdoor skills, to view wildlife in a natural setting where security and risk is moderate.

Objective for Semi-Natural Modified Zone - Provide opportunities for environmental education. To view wildlife and historical sites, learn or develop outdoor skills, enjoy family togetherness and engage in activities where small groups may interact, where security is high and risk minimal.

- c. Once management objectives are set for each zone then an opportunity class is defined. Most primitive areas contain a variety of physical and biological attributes, use levels and opportunities to recreate. Opportunity classes describe the units where different resource, social, and managerial conditions will be maintained. The classes reflect management objectives for the particular area.

Class 1 (Special Resource Zone) - This class represents a special classification and is primarily for the protection of threatened and endangered species and other identified resources of special interest. Some areas may be permanently closed to public access except under special permit. Other areas may be seasonal closures. When access is possible, the area may provide excellent interpretive opportunities. The area is not measurably affected by visitation, and impacts are not usually noticeable and recover annually. No facilities or trails are provided. Signing is limited to area boundary marking. When closed, area is monitored by frequent Ranger Patrols around perimeter.

Class 2 (Natural Zone) - This class provides outstanding opportunities for isolation and solitude. Ecological conditions are not measurably affected by the visitor. Impacts are not readily apparent and normally recover annually. Trails are not developed, are widely scattered, generally unmarked and not maintained. Challenge in this zone is high in that visitors must rely on their own abilities and skills. Signing is absent. Ranger patrols are very infrequent. No facilities are provided. Response time to emergency situations is slow. Access is limited in that terrain features will discourage many visitors from traveling in this area. Group contacts through the area will be few and very rare. Interpretation is through self-discovery. Management presence is not noticeable.

Class 3 (Semi-Natural Zone) - This class provides excellent opportunities to experience nature and wildlife and scenic viewing. It may include popular recreation and wildlife areas with developed trails and trail maintenance levels. The number of area encounters is moderate and chances of group interaction is minimal. Impacts may be visible and remain from year to year, but are confined. No facilities are provided except for health or safety concerns. Signing would be limited and infrequent. Management presence is not readily apparent except at access points. Interpretation is through self-discovery with some use of maps and brochures. Ranger Patrols are scheduled on a limited basis.

Class 4 (Semi-Natural Modified Zone) - This class provides opportunities to experience, nature and wildlife and scenic viewing in a family setting. Educational experiences are emphasized. Interpretation is through limited site facilities and includes maps, brochures and guidebooks. It includes popular recreation areas with a developed nature trail and trail maintenance levels. The level of encounters may be moderate to high and chances of group Interaction is likely during peak seasons. Impacts are usually visible and remain from year to year, but are confined. Facilities may be provided for health and safety concerns and for educational purposes. Management presence is readily apparent and ranger patrols are scheduled on a regular basis.

- d. The next step in the procedure is to select indicators of changes. Indicators are specific variables that singly or in combination are taken as indicative of the overall condition of a particular opportunity class. No single indicator is a comprehensive measure, but only a part of what management seeks to achieve through its objectives. It is unrealistic to assess the present condition and change in every resource and social feature on Wild Horse Island, a limited number of indicators will be selected as measures of the overall condition of an area. These examples of indicators relate as directly as possible to the objective set.

Social Indicators

- parties at trail head per day
- average party size
- average length of stay
- # of encounters per trip
- total # of visitors
- width of trail
- # of access trails
- litter per segment of trail
- # of conflicts between visitors and private owners

Biological Indicators

- # of bighorn sheep, mule deer & wild horses
- % of forest cover vs prairie
- vigor and population of selected native plant species
- classification of impacted sites (includes: vegetation loss, bare soil increase, cleanliness etc.)
- threatened and endangered species reduction
- presence and % of noxious weeds

Criteria for selecting indicators

- Indicator must be able to be measured in an accurate cost-effective manner.
- The condition of the indicator should reflect a relationship to the amount and type of use occurring.
- Social indicators should be related to issues of concern.

- The condition of the indicator should be capable of being influenced by management action.

e. In the next step, the existing condition of the resource and social conditions are inventoried. This information provides the basis for setting standards for each indicator. The necessary data will include visitor use and distribution, visitor impacts, wildlife population counts, and range and forest conditions.

f. After indicators are determined, standards must be set. The purpose of this is to provide a reference point, so that when the current quality of the resource or its uses approach, equal or exceed such a point, mitigating action will be taken by management. Over the different opportunity classes standards will describe a gradation of conditions. For example, the number of acceptable encounters in the semi-primitive zone will be higher than that found in the most primitive zone. Standards that are set will be fairly subjective at first, and represent desired conditions until such time as management is able to evaluate their effectiveness in protecting the resource and the recreational opportunities managed for in a given area. However, it must be kept in mind that whatever standard is set, it must relate back to maintaining the objectives and opportunity class of a given zone. Examples of standards would include: maximum acceptable number of visitor encounters per day, total number of visitors per access point, maximum number of bighorn sheep and mule deer.

Standards for Indicators

TBA- currently being developed

- g. After indicators and standards are set, then management actions to achieve the desired objectives are identified. Again it must be emphasized that the identified actions must be conducive to the objectives and opportunity class of a given zone. For example, designated trails, toilets, and picnic tables do not fit into a primitive classification, where development and management presence are minimal. Management action can take the form of regulations (e.g. no pets, no camping, group size limits).

Management Actions to Maintain Standards - TBA

- h. Evaluation, selection and implementation of preferred alternatives is the next step. Management actions would be evaluated and selected through use of the Management Strategy Matrix (Appendix L). Basically this involves comparing alternatives against each other by means of a set of decision criteria.
- i. In this step, a monitoring program is initiated which focuses on the indicators and standards previously developed. Monitoring involves collection of information on the selected indicators for the purpose of evaluating how close current conditions are to the prescribed standards. It can be used to determine why conditions are acceptable or unacceptable and provide information for developing, analyzing and implementing any necessary changes in direction.

j. Monitoring Methodology

The monitoring process must not only measure impacts directly related to recreational use, but also those changes as a result of indirect human activities. These would include soil disturbance and overgrazing from wildlife, encroachment of forest on prairie areas; introduction of exotic plant species, noxious weed and insect infestations and tree diseases. The methodology needed to monitor the selected indicators is currently being developed.

Flathead Lake Islands Management Plan 2009 - Supplement D

Island Parks Legislation MCA 77-1-405

TITLE 77 STATE LANDS CHAPTER 1 ADMINISTRATION OF STATE LANDS PART 4 CLASSIFICATION OF STATE LANDS

JURISDICTION Mont. Code Anne., § 77-1-405 (2001) 77-1-405

Island parks established -- development limited.

(1) In order to retain the integrity of the recreational experience associated with Montana's river and lake islands, development of undisputed state-owned or state-leased island property, which is hereby designated as island parks, including islands designated as state property under 70-18-203, lying within and surrounded by a navigable river, stream, or lake is limited, after April 30, 1997, to:

(a) the installation of minimal signage indicating that the island is a designated island park in which development has been limited and encouraging the public to help in maintaining the island park's primitive character by packing out trash;

(b) necessary latrine facilities if approved by the fish, wildlife, and parks commission;

(c) footings or pilings necessary for the construction of a bridge; and

(d) oil and gas leasing.

(2) Improvements made to and agricultural operations on state-owned or state-leased island property prior to April 30, 1997, may be maintained or continued, but further development is limited as provided in this section.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of 77-1-203 regarding multiple-use management, the legislature finds that the highest and best use of **island** property administered as school trust land, except **islands** designated as **natural** areas pursuant to Title 76, chapter 12, is for recreation and grazing and that those **islands** should be left in as primitive state as possible to protect from the loss of potential future revenue that could result from the failure to leave the islands in an undeveloped condition.

(4) For purposes of this section, state ownership or state lease of island property is disputed if the dispute arises before, on, or after April 30, 1997.

HISTORY:

En. Sec. 1, Ch. 449, L. 1997.

Flathead Lake Islands Management Plan 2009 - Supplement E

Primitive Parks Legislation MCA 23-1-116 to 118

23-1-116. Primitive parks established. Because of their unique and primarily undeveloped character, the following state parks and management areas are designated as primitive parks and are subject to the provisions of 23-1-115 through 23-1-118:

- (1) Big Pine management area;
- (2) Thompson Falls state park;
- (3) Wild Horse Island state park;
- (4) Lost Creek state park;
- (5) Painted Rocks state park;
- (6) Ackley Lake state park;
- (7) Sluice Boxes state park;
- (8) Deadman's Basin state park;
- (9) Pirogue Island state park;
- (10) Medicine Rocks state park;
- (11) Headwaters state park;
- (12) Council Grove state park;
- (13) Beaverhead Rock state park;
- (14) Natural Bridge state park; and
- (15) Madison Buffalo Jump state park.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 501, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 476, L. 1995.

23-1-117. (Temporary) Limit on development of primitive parks. (1) Except as permitted in Headwaters state park for the limited purposes provided in subsections (3) through (5), the only development allowed in primitive parks designated in 23-1-116 is:

- (a) necessary improvements required to meet minimum public health standards regarding sanitation, which may include necessary access to outhouses, vaults, and water;
- (b) improvements necessary to ensure the safe public use of existing boat ramps;
- (c) addition of gravel to existing unpaved roads and the resurfacing of paved roads when necessary to ensure safe public access;
- (d) establishment of new hiking trails or improvement of existing hiking trails; and
- (e) installation of minimal signage indicating that the park is a designated primitive park in which development has been limited and encouraging the public to help in maintaining the park's primitive character by packing out trash.

(2) The following development of designated primitive parks is prohibited:

- (a) installation of electric lines or facilities, except when necessary to comply with subsection (1)(a);
- (b) installation of recreational vehicle sanitary dumpsites where they do not presently exist; and
- (c) creation of new roads and paving of existing but previously unpaved roads.

(3) The orientation area at Headwaters state park may be rebuilt and expanded in order to prepare for and manage increased visitation expected for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, to include:

- (a) an unstaffed information kiosk;
- (b) sanitation facilities;

- (c) additional parking; and
- (d) additional signage to inform visitors about the history and uses of the park and services in the surrounding area.
- (4) The existing parking area at the confluence of the Madison and Jefferson Rivers in the Headwaters state park may be improved, but not enlarged, using parking features that can be removed. Low-profile interpretive signs may be installed in place of existing signage
- (5) Interpretive and directional signage may be installed at Headwaters state park to educate visitors about the history and significance of the site and to orient visitors to the features of the park and the surrounding area. (*Terminates December 31, 2003-sec. 3, Ch. 264, L. 2001.*)

23-1-117. (Effective January 1, 2004) Limit on development of primitive parks. (1) As of October 1, 1993, the only development allowed in primitive parks designated in 23-1-116 is:

- (a) necessary improvements required to meet minimum public health standards regarding sanitation, which may include necessary access to outhouses, vaults and water;
- (b) improvements necessary to ensure the safe public use of existing boat ramps;
- (c) addition of gravel to existing unpaved roads and the resurfacing of paved roads when necessary to ensure safe public access;
- (d) establishment of new hiking trails or improvement of existing hiking trails; and
- (e) installation of minimal signage indicating that the park is a designated primitive park in which development has been limited and encouraging the public to help in maintaining the park's primitive character by packing out trash.

(2) The following development of designated primitive parks is prohibited:

- (a) installation of electric lines or facilities, except when necessary to comply with subsection (1)(a);
- (b) installation of recreational vehicle sanitary dumpsites where they do not presently exist; and
- (c) creation of new roads and paving of existing but previously unpaved roads.

(3) Lost Creek state park may be developed to include a camp host pad, with necessary water, electric, and sewage disposal facilities to meet minimum public health standards for the camp host. The camp host pad must be completed by September 30, 2007, and must be accomplished in the least intrusive manner possible in order to retain the primitive character of Lost Creek state park as a whole, in keeping with the spirit of the Montana Primitive Parks Act.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 501, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 264, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 234, L. 2005.

23-1-118. Elimination of resident user fee -- fee for nonresident use -- penalty. (1) In recognition of the right of Montana residents to use primitive parks without regard to their ability to pay, a Montana resident is not required to pay a user fee for the use of any primitive park designated in [23-1-116](#), except that the department may charge camping fees at Thompson Falls state park and Headwaters state park.

(2) A nonresident who wishes to use a primitive park is required to pay the state park user fees chargeable under [23-1-105](#).

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 501, L. 1993.

Flathead Lake Islands Management Plan 2009 - Supplement F

FWP Commercial Use Rules

Adopted December 14, 2006
Administrative Rules of Montana

ARM 12.14.101 DEFINITIONS (1) “Allocation” means distributing limited use opportunities when a rationing system is in place.

(2) “Authorization” means written permission granted to a person or entity by the department to conduct commercial use.

(3) “Commercial use” means any person or entity that utilizes lands under the control, administration, and jurisdiction of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for consideration. Commercial use includes any person, group or organization, that makes or attempts to make a profit, vend a service or product, receive money, amortize equipment, or obtain goods or services as compensation from participants in activities occurring on land that is under the control, administration, and jurisdiction of the department. This includes nonprofit organizations and educational groups that receive money from participants in activities occurring on department land. This includes a person whose business operates on department land, regardless of that person’s physical presence at the site, but does not include a person who rents, sells, or otherwise provides equipment or merchandise that is used on department land unless the renting, selling, or providing of equipment or merchandise takes place on department land. Examples of commercial use that are governed by these rules include but are not limited to: trail rides, guided walks or tours, float trips, guided angling or hunting, game retrieval, professional dog training, equipment rentals, retail sales, food concessions, filming, firewood cutting, construction-related activities, research when accompanied by paying clients, or any combination thereof.

(4) “Commission” means the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission of the state of Montana.

(5) “Concession service” means a commercial business that provides multiple services or products on department land. Examples include but are not limited to marinas, lodging, equipment rental or sales, retail sales, and food services.

(6) “Consideration” means something of value given or done in exchange for something of value given or done by another.

(7) “Department” means the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks of the state of Montana.

(8) “Educational group” means an organized group that is officially recognized as an educational or scientific institution by a federal, state, or local government entity. Documentation of this recognition must be on institutional letterhead and include a signature by the head of the institution/department and documentation of official educational or scientific tax exemption as granted by the Internal Revenue Service.

(9) “Fishing access site” means a site or area designated by the department as a fishing access site.

(10) “Mitigation” means an enforceable measure, within the authority of the agency or mutually agreed to by the permit holder that is designed to reduce or prevent undesirable effects or impacts of the proposed use.

- (11) “Ration” means to regulate use intensity by limiting the amount of use on a site.
- (12) “Restricted water body” means a body of water regulated by special department rules governing commercial use, such as rules that restrict the timing, location, amount, or type of commercial use that occurs. “Restricted water body” may also mean a body of water that is under a cooperative management agreement with another agency concerning commercial use.
- (13) “Site” means an individual unit of land, or portion thereof, owned or managed by the department.
- (14) “State park” means a site or area designated by the department as a state park.
- (15) “Water-based outfitter or guide” means any person who for consideration provides water-related recreation services or supervises someone providing these services. This includes outfitters and guides that are licensed by the state of Montana, and waterbased service providers that are not licensed by the state of Montana.
- (16) “Wildlife management area” means a site or area designated by the department as a wildlife management area or a wildlife habitat protection area.
- AUTH: 23-1-105, 23-1-106, 87-1-301, 87-1-303, MCA
- IMP: 23-1-105, 23-1-106, 87-1-303, MCA

ARM 12.14.105 APPLICABILITY OF COMMERCIAL USE RULES (1) The following rules shall govern commercial use, as defined in ARM 12.14.101, that occurs on lands under the control, administration, and jurisdiction of the department. Unless otherwise noted in these rules, these rules apply to fishing access sites, state parks, wildlife management areas, administrative sites, and other lands under the control, administration, and jurisdiction of the department.

(2) The department may apply these rules to leased lands when the department has authorization to manage use of these lands. This does not include block management lands or lands under a conservation easement.

AUTH: 23-1-105, 23-1-106, 87-1-301, 87-1-303, MCA

IMP: 23-1-105, 23-1-106, 87-1-303, MCA

ARM 12.14.110 EXCEPTIONS TO APPLICABILITY OF COMMERCIAL USE

RULES (1) These commercial use rules do not apply to commercial activities or uses that are initiated or invited by the department for the purpose of manipulating, enhancing, or otherwise improving the habitat of a site. Such uses shall continue to be governed by the department’s land lease-out policy. Examples include but are not limited to livestock grazing, farming, haying, fencing, and timber harvest.

(2) These commercial use rules do not apply to the leasing of department

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land for communication towers, utility easements, and granting of right-of-way. These types of commercial use shall continue to be governed by the department’s land lease-out policy.

(3) These commercial use rules do not apply to the leasing of department oil and gas reserves. These uses shall continue to be governed by the department’s oil and gas reserves leasing policy.

(4) These commercial use rules do not apply to the transferring of vehicles or people to or from a department site.

(5) These commercial use rules do not apply to the collection of antlers.

(6) These commercial use rules do not apply to trapping or commercial activities

under Title 87, chapter 4, parts 2 through 10, MCA (taxidermists, fur dealers, alternative livestock, shooting preserves, fish ponds, sale of game, menageries and zoos, game bird farms, and fur farms), except commercial dog training and field trials conducted for commercial purposes.

(7) These commercial use rules do not apply to the press or the news media when photographing, filming, or reporting on activities that occur on department land.

(8) These commercial use rules do not apply to consignment sales when the department sells merchandise on behalf of a business and a portion of the revenue is allocated to the department.

(9) These commercial use rules do not apply to commercial activities or uses that are initiated or invited by the department for the purpose of addressing public safety concerns. Examples include but are not limited to hazardous tree removal and fuel reduction efforts to reduce fire danger.

(10) These commercial use rules do not apply to fishing tournaments conducted by nonprofit organizations.

AUTH: 23-1-105, 23-1-106, 87-1-301, 87-1-303, MCA

IMP: 23-1-105, 23-1-106, 87-1-303, MCA

ARM 12.14.115 GENERAL POLICY (1) Department land belongs to the people of Montana and the department manages these sites and associated resources in trust for the benefit of current and future generations of the people. The department's primary responsibilities are to maintain or enhance the resources of these sites and to provide benefits to the public from these sites.

(2) Some types of commercial use can help the department to achieve its resource management goals and/or provide desired services to the public when properly managed. Commercial use must be managed to prevent or minimize conflicts with the public and the intended purposes of a site.

(3) Commercial use on department lands is a privilege, not a right. Authorization to conduct commercial use may be denied, amended, or revoked at any time for cause. Historical commercial use of a site does not convey a right to conduct commercial use in the future. If it becomes necessary to ration and allocate commercial use, the department is not required to allocate opportunities based on historical use of a site.

(4) The department may prohibit, restrict, condition, or otherwise manage commercial use, including placing stipulations on the type, timing, location, duration, and quantity of commercial use. Reasons for prohibiting, restricting, conditioning, or otherwise managing commercial use include but are not limited to:

- (a) protecting resources or mitigating impacts to resources;
- (b) preventing or minimizing conflicts with the intended purpose for which the department acquired, maintains, or manages a site;
- (c) preserving the public's ability to recreate on or otherwise use a site;
- (d) providing for the public's safety and welfare; or
- (e) other purposes identified by the department.

(5) Restrictions, including prohibitions, rationing, and allocation on water-based outfitters and guides on rivers and fishing access sites shall be governed by the department's statewide river recreation rules.

(6) The purpose and management objectives can vary from one type of department land to another and from one site to another. The public's use and expectations can vary

from one type of department land to another and from one site to another. The opportunities to conduct commercial use may be different depending upon where the use would occur, and the department may develop policies that provide additional guidance for managing commercial use at fishing access sites, state parks, wildlife management areas, and other department lands.

(7) The department may establish special criteria for a particular site or prohibit commercial use altogether based on the management objectives and conditions of that site.

(8) The department may prohibit or condition commercial use that would displace the general public. The department may temporarily alter public use opportunities at fishing access sites and state parks to accommodate commercial use on a case-by-case basis in the interest of public safety and security or when there is the potential for short-term conflicts.

(9) The department must comply with federal aid requirements when authorizing commercial use on department land purchased or managed with federal aid.

(10) Commercial hunting outfitting is prohibited on all department land and on water bodies that are located entirely within the boundaries of department land. Commercial fishing outfitting is prohibited on all wildlife management areas. The department may authorize commercial use that is solely for the purpose of assisting the public in the retrieval of legally harvested game animals. The department may authorize a commercial hunting outfitter to:

(a) travel on a designated trail across department land solely for the purpose of gaining access to federal lands where the commercial hunting outfitter is authorized to conduct use; and

(b) use a fishing access site solely for the purpose of gaining access to water bodies where the commercial hunting outfitter is authorized to conduct use.

AUTH: 23-1-105, 23-1-106, 87-1-301, 87-1-303, MCA

IMP: 23-1-105, 23-1-106, 87-1-303, MCA

Please see Administrative Rules for full text.

Flathead Lake Islands Management Plan 2009 - Supplement G

Trail Maintenance Level Standards

<u>Level 1</u> Goal ▼	Clearing	Drainage	Tread	Switchbacks	Signing
Resource Protection	There will be no clearing for this level unless blatant resource damage is apparent.	Installation of water bars & ditches only. No corduroy or French drains or log crossings will be constructed	No tread construction or maintenance, if delineation is necessary it will be done with rock cairns or blazes.	If cutting of switchbacks occurs, the route causing the least erosion will be promoted. Other routes will be blocked with logs, rocks or brush	Rock cairns or blazes will be used when trail is impossible to follow. Directional signs at trail intersections only may be used. No mileages given.
<u>Level 2</u> Goal ▼	Clearing	Drainage	Tread	Switchbacks	Signing
Resource Protection User Safety	Only brush and timber that horses and hikers cannot step over (max. 16 in. high) or pass underneath. Standing dead trees that constitute a hazard will be removed	Installation of water bars and ditches only. Trails may be relocated around bogs. Corduroy may be constructed to protect the resource. Primitive bridges may be built at stream crossings that cannot be safely crossed.	Tread will be maintained and reconstructed (max. 2 ft.), no new construction. Above delineation tactics can be employed where necessary. Loose rocks hindering travel will be removed.	All worn or cut switchback paths will be blocked or obliterated with natural materials.	Blazes and cairns or markers will be used only when the trail is impossible to follow. Signing, may be informational directional (no mileages) or regulatory where necessary.
<u>Level 3</u> Goal ▼	Clearing	Drainage	Tread	Switchbacks	Signing
Resource Protection, User Safety & Visitor Convenience	Clear 8 ft. in height and min. 4 ft. in width. All brush which causes visitors to step off the trail will be removed. Standing dead trees which may be a hazard will be removed	Water bars and ditches will be constructed and maintained. Trails will be relocated to avoid bogs. Corduroy, log crossings or French drains may be utilized. Culverts may be installed, or bridges built at stream crossings.	Tread will be constructed and maintained so that blazes and cairns are not needed. Tread width will be 36"-48". Loose rocks that constitute a hazard will be removed. All debris will be removed from trail.	Buck and pole fencing, barrier logs, rocks, brush or other natural material will be used to block or obliterate all worn cut paths	Signing may be regulatory, informational, interpretive, and directional where needed. Mileages will be given on directional signs.

Flathead Lake Islands Management Plan 2009 - Supplement H

Pictures of Cedar Island Buildings

Main Building



Cedar Island Outbuildings



Orchard Storage Building



Well- House



Boat House



Fruit Storage Building